

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

ISRAEL, Jim (Democrat)
Representative, 2nd District, New York
Elected 2000 to 107th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congress



BACKGROUND

Born: Brooklyn, NY - 30 May 1958
Home: Huntington, NY
Marital status: Engaged (Marlene Budd) - 2 children
Religion: Jewish
Education: Nassau Comm Coll, AA 1978; Syracuse U, 1978-79; GWU, BA 1982 (poli-sci)
Profession: Public relations and marketing firm manager
Military: None

Political: Congressional aide to Rep Richard Ottinger in the early 1980s. Huntington Town Board, 1993-01 (majority leader 1997-01). Elected to the House in 2000 with 48% of the vote in a 5-way race, succeeding incumbent Rep Rick Lazio (R) who ran unsuccessfully for the Senate. Reelected in 2002 with 58.3%.

Rep Israel considers himself a fiscal conservative. Opposed diverting Social Security taxes into private investments. Supports paying off the national debt and using the savings to protect Social Security. In the 107th Congress, voted for the Iraqi war resolution. Authored legislation protecting Federal whistleblowers, stating that such employees deserved to be free of retaliation. Urged local businesses to try and acquire government contracts pertaining to homeland defense. His Long Island district is home to Telephonics Corp, a large military contractor that has developed a 50-lb radar system to be used for homeland security. Northrop Grumman defense facilities are also in his district. Served on the Financial Services and Science Committees during the 107th Congress. Sponsored the Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2001.

At the beginning of the 108th Congress was appointed to the Armed Services Cmte, becoming the first Long Islander on the committee since 1994.

Additional: Democratic Steering Committee; Blue Dog Coalition; Dem Homeland Security Task Force; New Democrat Coalition; Coast Guard Caucus. The American Airpower Museum is located in Farmingdale in his district.

AF Bases: None

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on: Tactical Air & Land Forces; Projection Forces

FINANCIAL SERVICES